CHARLES DICKENS AT HOME. A Visit Described by Hans Christian Andersen.

The Cincinnati Commercial translates the following account of a visit to Charles Dickens by Hans Caristian Andersen:-

* "Dickens had written to me in a letter which I received in Denmark, 'I have just finished my new work, and am now a man. We shall, therefore, be together all the time, and can play cricket on the law a. But our intercourse was somew aat interrupted, for on the day pravious to my arrival, the humorist and playwright, Douglas Jerrold, had died, and he had said to his heart-broken wife, 'Dickens will take care of you when I am dead,' And, in fact, Dickens did take care of the widow. He collected several thousand pounds for her, and invested this capital so that the interest sufficed for her wants. Dickens founded a committee of men, bearing names no less illustrious than his own, such as Bulwer, Thackeray, and Macrealy, and a programme was drawn up for making money in different ways, and for noble purposes. It is well known that Dickens possesses wonderful talents as an actor; he has established a small amateur stage at his louse, where he gives dramatic representations, in conjunction with some of the members of his family and several intimate friends. Now, some performances were to be given at high rates of admission; besides, Dickens and Thackeray engaged to deliver some lectures, for which Dickens, on his part, selected one of his Christmas stories. Time and labor were required to carry all this into effect. There were days when I saw him write and forward twenty letters, all of which he did with an eagerness and joy as if it were child's play. The only thing that grisved me in this respect was that it shortened and limited our intercourse; for, owing to these affairs, he had to go repeatedly to London and stay there for whole days.

When I arrived at Gadshill the family had not yet been two weeks at their new countryseat; both the environs and all drives were new to them. Meanwhile I myself soon found out the most attractive points, and to one of them, the summit of Gadshill, I conducted Dickens and his family. Our way led across the broad high-road on which, opposite to Dickens' villa, there lies a tavern, on the faded sign of which Falstaff and Prince Henry, and on the reverse a scene from the Merry of Windsor are represented. From the lavern a ravine between live hedges led up to a group of pleasant houses, all two-storied, and their walls beautifully clad with vines and creepers; long, next white curtains hung in the windows; the highest house was watched by an old blint dog; cows and sheep were grazing on the meadows, and on this highest point there rose an obelisk. The whole monument was cracked, and the first gust of wind might upset it. The inscription was no longer distinctly legible, but we saw that the monument had been erected in honor of an excellent country gentleman who had died many, many years ago. Inasmuch as I was the first to lead Dickens to this point, he afterwards called the place, jocularly, 'Hans

Christian Andersen's monument.'

* "Without any previous practice in speaking English, and hearing it spoken, I understood from the very first all that Dickens said to me. Whenever I hesitated, he repeated the idea in another form; and no one caught my meaning quicker than he did. Danish and English are so wonderfully similar that we often were astonished at it, and when, at times, I was at a loss to find the right word, Dickens begged me to name the Danish word. and we often found that it was precisely the the same as in English.

"When I acquired greater familiarity with verse on topics other than those of every-day occurrence; I longed to express my feelings, and find in the foreign language words as natural to me as those of my mother tongue. I felt more and more at home; even the smaller children of the house began to understand me; nay, the smallest of them, who, when I asked him, on the first day, if he liked me, said, very henestly, I will put you out of the window, assured me now, with a smiling face, that he would 'put me in again.' Dickens had no less than nine children, two grown daughters, Mary and Kate, and seven sons:-Charles, Waiter Landor, Francis Geoffrey, Alfred Tennyson, Sidney Swith, Henry Fielding, and Edward Lytton Waiter Landor, Francis Bulwer. The two eldest and the two youngest were at home; the other three came on a visit from Boulogue, in France, where they were at a boarding school. It was vacation time, and I soon saw them climb in the branches of the large cedar trees, or play at cricket with their other brothers and their father, all of them in shirt-sleeves, on the large meadow close to the garden; the ladies sat in the tall grass nuder the trees, peasant children peeped over the hedge, and Turk, the watch dog, who was fastened all night, had now been delivered from his chain and led the life of a free dog, while his long chain and his kennel were left to a big, old raven, who no doubt considered himself a relative to the raven in 'Barnaby Rudge, which, though stuffed, still existed, and was to be seen in the house. "When in London, Charles Dickens lives in

Tavistock House. A grated gate separates the yard and garden from the lively street. In the rear of the house extends a large garden, with several lawns and tall trees, and imparts a rural appearance to the whole in the midst of smoky and dusty London. In the passage leading from the street to the garden there hung paintings and copper-plates; here stood Dickens' marble bust, lifelike, young, and handsome, and the doors of the bed-chambers and dining-room were surmounted by Tnorwaldsen's bas reliefs of Night and Day. On the first floor was a large library, with a fireplace and writing table, and in the large room opening upon the garden, Dickens and his family and friends amused themselves in the winter by performing plays. The kitchen is in the basement, and the bed-rooms are on the upper floor.

When I came to London, I was quartered in a pleasant room opening upon the garden, whence I saw, above the trees, the tower of London loom up or disappear, according to the clearness of the weather. It was a long way from here to the centre of business-life; in one of the latter streets, opposite to the Lyceum Theatre, is Dickens' literary office, where he attends to his duties as editor of the most popular weekly published in England.

"But let us return to the country. The old peasant whose cows and sheep were grazing near the monument on Gadshill knew that I lived at Dickens' house, and that he brought ns every day fresh bread. They are execllent folks,' he said. 'You see that as soon as you eatch sight of the man and his wife. They had spoken to him so kindly that they had won his heart completely. 'Yes,' added, 'a few years since there lived quite close to them a lady whom they called the Sweedish Nightingale. It was Jenny Dind who had lived here. 'She was as kind and hearty as Mr. Dickens.'

"I repaired to the place where he said Jenny Lind had lived; the windows were painted, the door was locked, no one lived here, the cage was empty, the nightingale had flown. Many thoughts and reminiscences stole upon me; I never since passed that place without a feeling of profound sadness."

IRO FORTS.

Experi-The Le odon Times reports the result of important trials of iron structures

scable to land fortifications. They had soited great interest, and the attendance at Shoeburyness was very large. The structures to be fired at were erected about 100 yards within the low embankment protecting the ground from the Thames, the front of the works facing inland. The Plymouth target and the other casemates were in the centre, flanked on either hand by the experimental walls and plates.

The appearance of the larger structures was massive and imposing, but their effect was somewhat marred by the large black surfaces of iron wall being divided off into squares by white painted lines. The details of construction were to a considerable extent hidden by the close fitting of the external parts; but ample information was supplied on this point by the exhibition of lithographed plans and sections of the structures, showing all their parts in full detail. Red and blue lines were also painted on the targets to indicate the places of the joints and other important features in the construction, and printed descriptions, prepared for the purpose, were circulated among the visitors. Diagrams were also exhibited, showing the various data of the artillery, and a notice of the gun, charge, and

projectile was posted up before each round.

The chief object was the Plymouth shield, and the only gun used, with the exception of two rounds from the American Rodman, was the largest rifled gun, viz., the twenty-three ton gun, of twelve inches bore, carrying a Palliser pointed shot of 600 pounds. The charges were originally intended to be such as would represent the effects at distances of 500 and 1000 yards; but, as it was considered desirable to test the strength of the shield with the full power of the guns, the battering charge of seventy-six pounds of powder was used every round.

There were in all eight rounds fired against the shield, five of which were directed against the part to the right of the porthole, strengthened by an extra five-inch plate in front, giving in this place twenty inches thickness of iron. The other three were fired at the thinper or fifteen inch side of the shield.

The first shot hit the live-inch strengthening plate about three feet from the ground and fifteen inches from the right hand edge, tearing open the narrow strip outside the shot. One bolt was driven several inches inwards, and the inside plates and the vertical standard behind them were slightly bulged. The abot penetrated about a toot and broke up.

The second round was a shell of the same weight from the same gun, with a bursting charge of 1411b. This struck about six inches above the port, and exactly on the left edge of the strengthening plate, so that half the projectile acted on this plate and the other part on the thinner part adjoining. In front no damage was seen, but at the back it was found that the horizontal icon "plank" over the porthole was broken in two on the right hand side of the port and partly thrust backwards. The boils near the part struck were strained, but not broken. The shell did not bury itself deep enough in the irou to do more mischief than a shot, as the bursting charge exploded in the rear.

The third round was a shot from the great American 'Rodman' gun, with a 15-inch bore, and a cast-iron round shot of 450 pounds weight. The usual charge in America for this gun is 60 pounds, but, as it is said to be sometimes used with 100 pounds, it was determined to try it with its full power, and for that purpose it was loaded with 831 pounds of our powder, which from its great strength is found equivalent to 100 pounds American The shot struck the strengthening-plate about Is inches from the bottom, and a little to the right of the middle, not far from the shot of the first round. It cracked the front plate. started another bolt, and bent the inside layer of iron, doing altogether, but little damage, The shot rebounded, and fell, much flattened, a few feet in front of the target. It was of American make, and appeared to be of excet-

As the last shot was said to have grazed the ground before arriving at the target, and thereby to have lost some of its force, a second shot was fired from the same gun, also at the strengthening-plate, which it struck five feet high and one foot six inches from the left-hand edge. It made an indent of eight or nine inches, cracking the plate through to the edge, and knocking off by the shock from the righthand corner a piece of plate already broken by former rounds. The inner planks near the port-hole were distorted, and an upright standard slightly bent. The shot struck on a spot where the plates were supported by one of these standards, and which was, therefore, a strong place; but the effect of both these rounds appeared so small for the large charge of powder as to give but an indifferent opinion of the power of this boasted American weapon compared with our own rifled gans.

For the fifth round the 12-inch rifled gun was resumed, and another shot was fired also at the thickening plate. It struck about six feet high, and near the middle of the plate. It penetrated thirteen inches and broke a balt, doing also considerable damage behind. It pushed out the middle layer of iron, and broke one of the horizontal planks of the internal layer, a piece of which, weighing between two hundred pounds and three hundred pounds was violently projected about one hundred feet to the rear of the target. .

The three remaining rounds were aimed at the thinner part of the target, representing what is actually in construction for the forts, and fifteen inches thick. It was intended that at least one of these should hit a part between the upright standards, where the plates were unbacked; but this was not accomplished, each shot striking a place immediately in front of the upright standards. The sixth round was a solid shot, which penetrated about ten inches, broke two bolts, and caused a bulge in both the back plates and the stand-The seventh round was a shell, which, like all the others, burst outside, and did little further mischief; and the eighth round was a solid shot, that caused a large bulge in the rear, projecting several inches, and opening with a wide, star-shaped crack, the standard also being considerably bent, though not

This ended the day's practice. The Plymouth target had received the fire of eight rounds, from the largest guns with the full baitering charges, and although it was a good deal purished in some parts, it had stood on the whole very well. It was not penetrated by any of the shot, nor had it ceased to afford protection. The worst feature of the day was the projection to the rear of the large mass of from in the fifth round, which would of course have been a serious thing in actual warfare.

THE MOON AND THE WEATHER. - If any marked connection existed between the state of the air and the aspect of the moon, it must inevitably have forced itself unsought upon the attention of meteorologists. In the weekly return of births, deaths, and marriages, issued by the Registrar-General, a table is given, showing all the meteorological elements for every day of the year, and a column is set apart for noting the changes and positions of the moon. These reports extend backward

a repertory of data that ought to reveal at a glauce any such connection, and would certainly have done so had it existed. But no constant relation between the moon columns and those containing the instrument readings has ever been traced. Our meteorological observatories furnish continuous and unbroken records of atmospheric variations, extending over long series of years; these afford still more abundant means for testing the validity of the lunar hypothesis. The collation has frequently been made for special points in the inquiry, and certainly some connection has been found to obtain between certain positions of the moon in her orbit and certain instrumental averages; but so small are the effects traceable to lunar influence that they are almost innapreciable among the grosser irregularities that arise from other and as yet unexplained canses. - Once-a- Week.

Stock Raising in Kansas.

From the Atchison (Kansas) Champion, Kansas is the best stock-raising State in the Union. Her broad and fertile prairies offer inducements and advantages to stock-raisers that no other country can afford. There is no better, surer, ner more rapid method of making money than stock-raising. And nothing will so much add to the material prosperity of the State as this business, systematically and

thoroughly followed. We can supply the East with hundreds of thousands of cattle every year; we ought to supply the West with all the pork they need, instead of allowing them to depend upon the States East of the Missouri. We are beginning to do the former-we have, as yet, done very little towards the latter. And this is the interest to which, more particularly, we desire to call the attention of farmers, of merchants, of capitalists, and of the people gene-

We are every year shipping immense droves of hogs to St. Louis, Chicago, and other points East. There they are slaughtered and packed, and in the spring this same meat is reshipped to Kansas, and from this State to all points West of us. There is no reason why such a system should continue longer. Every interest of the country protests against it. If men in Chicago and St. Louis can buy hogs in Kansas, transport them by railroad or steamboat to these places, kill and pack them, reship them to us in the spring, and make fortunes out of the business, is it not strange that those here who have money do not turn their attention to so lucrative a business; a business which, by saving the cost of transportation for from twelve to lifteen hundred miles, must prove even more incrative to our own people than to those so far away.

The capital to engage in such a business can be readily obtained by any enterprising, energetic business man. On the security such a business affords, our banks, we are assured, would willingly advance the means. They know that the business is a legitimate one, which, with all the advantages the country affords for its prosecution, cannot but prove profitable. And we hope to see a number of our merchauts, capitalists, or speculators take hold of this matter during the present season, and make a beginning of what will some day be one of the greatest business interests in the

The Epidemic Among the Silk-worms.

A letter from Italy to an English paper says: -"You are aware that of late years there has been a very large importation of silk-worms' eggs from Japan to Italy, with a view to repairing the ravages of disease among the worms in this country. To a considerable extent the plan has proved successful, although the descendants of the Japanese by no means third generation—the mysterious affliction which has long played such havon with one of the most important and Incrative of Italian productions. Latterly complaints have been heard even of the eggs imported direct from Japan. To all appearances they were of good quality, but it seemed they were not proof against the prevailing epidemic. A circular that has just been addressed to the Presidents of Agricultural Committees by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce accounts otherwise for the deterioration. A system of fraud has been detected. The Minister declares it to have come to his knowledge that a great number of cases containing empty papers of the kind in which the Japanese eggs are usually sent have been received by a Milan

"These papers are duly stamped and inscribed in Japanese; they bear the Custom House mark usually put on them at Yeddo on their way to the Yokohama market. The Minister declarss it beyond a doubt that these papers were intended to receive Italian eggs, which would be sold to the public as genuine Japanese-thus discrediting the only eggs on which is now based a hope of reviving serioulture in this country. The discovery appears to have been due to the refusal of certain Japanese houses to submit their papers of eggs to the inspection and stamp of the Italian agents and consuls in Japan. The Minister promises great vigilance to defeat these frauds, for, he adds, he has reason to believe that other persons are on the alert-to follow the example of the Milan house above alluded to. According to an official publication, in 1863 the total value of the cocoons produced in the provinces which now compose the kingdom of Italy was upwards of four millions sterling. To obtain this there have been imported fifty-six thousand one hundred and twenty-nine kilogrammes of eggs, at a cost of twenty-four millions of francs, or nearly a million sterling."

The Slave Trade in Brazil.

A passage in Maximilian's "Recollections of Brazil" has given rise to a somewhat spirited controversy in the columns of the Pail Mall Gazette, to which a member of the Brazilian legation and a former diplomatic representative of the English Government in Brazil are the parties. The discussion arose out of the following passage from Maximilian's book:-"It is true that many influenced 'por el honor della firma' will hold a little inquiry on

the subject of smuggled slaves, but it leads to no results. The slave-owners compel the suspected individuals (who naturally do not yet speak Portuguese intell gibly, either for good or evil) to answer every question of the judge by the word 'Minas.' 'What is your Answer-'Minas,' which is a very common name among slaves. 'Where were you born ?' Answer-'Minas,' one of the chief provinces of Brazil, but also an important negro tribe of Africa, which provides the Brazilians with the best slaves. 'Where do you work?' Answer-Minas.' Minas are the diamond and gold mines from which is derived a principal source of wealth of the country. The judge, who is naturally also a slave-owner, notes the three 'Minas,' shuts the protocol, and the affair is settled to the satisfaction of all parties."

To this the Brazilian diplomat replies that the occurrence alluded to must have happened, if at all, in 1859 or 1860; that Mr. Christie, the English diplomatic representative at Brezil during that time, made no report of any such occurrences, but reported an entire cessation of the trade. Mr. Christie retorts that the centext of his report does not sustain this allegation, and that the allusion made by | thereafter,

nearly a quarter of a century. Here, then, is | Maximilian probably referred to events happening before his (Mr. Christie's) official residence in Brazil. The Brazilian Charge d'Affaires makes further criticisms on Maximil-

I.A. Linnelli, L.C. To H. et al., "" Obj. Half. Co., Springer, et al.

ian's statements, which are not very material. The only important feature of the correspondence is the fact disclosed that the Brazilian government is anxious to clear itself from any complicity with slave smuggling. This is a cheering indication, at all events.

The Glacial Period.

In a paper addressed to the French Academy of Sciences, M. Villeneuve Flayose endeavors to prove the following proposition: snow-line and glaciers generally descend lowest where the moisture is greatest, and where consequently the warmth also is more considerable than at a higher elevation, since the aqueous vapors there emit a larger proportion of their latent calorie." This fact, already verified in the Alps by M. Studer, is, our author informs us, strongly characterized in the Himalaya, where the snows on the side of the equator descend twelve hundred yards lower than on the opposite declivity. Under our very eyes we may say, the glaciers of the Alps follow the same rule; they extend during rainy years and contract during the dry ones, in which the mean temperature is often low-The quarternary period was generally more humid than the present one, the recent upheavals; having caused many surfaces to emerge, which formerly were covered with water, and consequently concurred in the formation of aqueous vapor. Hence the Alps, surrounded by the vast lakes which at that time covered the surface of the basins of the Durance, the Rhone, the Saone, the Loire, Rhine, and others, received fifteen times more steam than before, which accounts for the enormous glaciers of the antediluvian period, notwithstanding the higher average of temperature then existing. An intense cold in the immediate vicinity of the glaciers was in abrupt contact with a warm temperature at the surface of the waters. This rendered it possible for the laurel of the Canary Isles to grow in the region inhabited by the reindeer, and for the Elephas primigenius to be in clese fraternity with the Elephas meridionalis. In New Zealand, one of the glaciers of the Cook range is not more than 152 yards from the level of the sea, and yet actually bordered with fine arborescent ferns.

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